

I would like to thank everyone for attending tonight. I will have my staff post the minutes of this Town Hall on our website at <http://dma.wi.gov>. If you have further questions feel free to email the Department of Military Affairs at [ngwi.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ngwi.pao@mail.mil). Again, thank you for attending tonight's Town Hall. Your dedication to readiness and excellence exemplifies the Guard motto of "Always Ready, Always There" and I am proud to lead the Wisconsin National Guard as we continue to move forward.

Good Night

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- Hello Maj. Gen. Dunbar, You may remember me, my son is the one who hit Rebecca in the head with the Josh dog. ( :  
Just wanted to say thank you for visiting our troop while over seas! I look forward to our men and women coming home soon!  
Sincerely, Serina Hendrickson  
by [serina hendrickson](#)

Too funny - my best to your son and i'll relay to the Lt Gov.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- Thank You Major General Dunbar for inviting us this meeting has been interesting ! GO GAURD!  
by [marlene crary](#)
- Can't wait to see our soldiers!  
by [sharon tilly](#)
- Thank you for the info and updates. Sometimes we get such mixed info Thank you for your time  
by [mariellen](#)
- After the 829th spends their 10-14 days at Ft. Bliss, and they return to WI, is there a process here before they are allowed to return to their families?  
by [spddispatch](#)

No - we welcome them home and send them home with you.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- Can you provide any information about deployment plans for F 2-238 out of West Bend?  
by [beth](#)

No orders for West Bend currently.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- Army Strong !!!!!  
by [jean m lazich](#)
- Go Guard !!  
by [norb poch](#)
- Thank You Major General Dunbar for providing valuable leadership & support to our soldiers!  
by [ldelites98](#)

- This Town Hall Meeting has been a pleasure. Thank you very much for making this happen and taking the time out of your busy schedule to share information and answer questions. I appreciate this!  
Thank you so much to you and your staff!  
by [shannon becker](#)

Thank you - we have a great team!  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Sir, is there discussion or thoughts about helping WIARNG soldiers when they go into the IRR/ING?

Several soldiers I am aware of where in this transition phase and disconnected from resources & camaraderie of serving. Sadly, they passed away too soon and too young.

Perhaps DOD, ARNG, VA & local resources can continue to help with this challenging transition.

Thank you sir & all those still serving as well as their loved ones.  
by [jonathan pylypiv](#)

Thank you!  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

We contact our ING soldiers annually and sometimes they transition back to the National Guard.  
We try to help all soldiers and airmen.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

Also - any soldier who has deployed has VA access.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Here is the link for Alpha Battery's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/abattery1121FA>  
by [rjuarez](#)
- Will our deployed 829th unit ever be put over in iraq for all the battles going on over their.  
by [brenda prestwood](#)

No plans for the 829th beyond current mission  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Nothing posted on 121st page since early 2013...just checked  
by [pkummrow](#)
- Is there a similar timeline for 121, as that of the 829?  
by [rjuarez](#)

We do not have a timeline for the 1-121  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Sir, sorry to sound like a broken record (wow, that dates me!) but do you when you will know more information about when our families will return home?  
by [janice faust](#)

We will share when we know. We don't hold the info and share once we know.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- And the link for the 1-121 facebook page?  
by [patty](#)  
<https://www.facebook.com/1.121FA>  
by [Moderator](#)

- Does the 121st have such a page on FB?

by **pkummrow**

Checking

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar** 14 hours ago

<https://www.facebook.com/1.121FA>

by **Moderator**

- Are families able to contribute for a better internet so they can Skype with their soldier?

by **norb poch**

No - it must be left to the theater infrastructure.

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- Good Evening. Is there a method/means as to determine which portion of the 829th will return home? Just interested in how or who the decisions are made through.

by **spddispatch**

Decisions are made by command over seas.

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- What is the purpose of sending another unit out and bringing a unit that is their home early

by **brenda prestwood**

Different missions

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- Will there be notice of when troops will be returning to the US? How long or what are the stages of reintegration?

by **kiara black**

Yes - there will be notice. Reintegration is three phases.

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- So entire the internet works sometimes it doesn't. Try very early mornings seems to work best

by **mariellen**

- If units are called to active duty is it always by full units, or can the needs be met by those who volunteer for be deployed?

by **cindy**

Yes - by unit or by volunteer depending on mission

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- I have skype with my son a few times and the internet has not caused an issue unless there is a power issue

by **brenda prestwood**

- How often will these town hall meetings be held? I don't believe there was one when my husband was deployed. I'd like to have one during the next deployment.

by **beth**

Thanks - we will look to doing them more often

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- How do I access the 829th FB page? Can someone share a link, please?

by [janice faust](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/829thEngineerCompany?ref=ts&fref=ts>

by [Moderator](#)

- If the 829 were to be redeployed, what would be the soonest turn around time they would have to go after returning from current mission?

by [shannon becker](#)

Current plans anticipate a minimum of five years

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#) 14 hours ago

- Is the Internet in Afghanistan good enough to Skype?

by [norb poch](#)

Depends on location of your soldier

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- After the 829th EN CO has completed their time at Ft. Bliss after being there for the 10-14 days, where will they then be sent to reunite with their families?

by [renae mckenzie](#)

Yes - in WI. We hope to bring them home to you as one group and be there with you.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- What is ISIS?

by [brenda prestwood](#)

A terrorist group in the middle east.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Whats AGR?

by [marlene crary](#)

Active Duty Guard

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- what are the most in demand MOS's in the National Guard right now?

by [cindy](#)

Our current demand is engineer. Aviators and artillery close behind. Infantry always needed.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Sir , May I ask what your stand is regarding us putting in ground troops against ISIS ?

by [jean m lazich](#)

I support the President

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Sir:

Thank you for your understanding. What I fear most is the lack of a local maintainer will lead to users modifying equipment in not so wise fashion in the name of "fixing" them so the unit can continue providing patient care. Preventing undue harm to patients is the core of the BMET oath.

Thank you, again. I look forward to hearing what you learn in the days ahead.

by robert

- My soldier has moved now this is the 2nd time lately. Why do they move so much and what is the purpose of it  
by brenda prestwood

Most moves are mission driven in theater. Very fluid environment.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- Shelly Sutley, Step-Mom of SPC Ashlee Volk, 829. Glad to hear mission is going well. Any concerns about Isis and current U.S. Military involvement affecting the return of our kids?  
by shelly sutley

Welcome Shelly. soldiers are doing great. ISIS is a concern for our nation and President is addressing - mission yet to be determined and no impact on us at this time.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- What base will the 829 return to when they come home for reintegration?  
by shannon becker

Ft. Bliss, Tx

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- When my son comes home and wants to go to school the funding that is allowed for him to go to school is that part of the budget cut  
by brenda prestwood

No - education benefit are funded.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- This is Kim Hay sister of Alan Hay, unit 121 alpha, will they spend time in wisconsin before returning home, sir!  
by kim hay

They will demob at Ft. Bliss and then return to WI.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- Will budget cuts effect AGR positions when our soldiers return from Afghanistan?  
by rjuarez

Under current guidance, we have not lost any AGR positions.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- I have been asked by local veterans groups here in Richland Center about sending things to the 829th so they get it for Christmas what is the proper response as some maybe home by Christmas.  
by jo ann krulatz

I'd recommend sending it and it would either be forwarded or enjoyed by other soldiers.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- where is the 950th deployment to?  
by shannon becker

I can't say - to theater.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

- I like th FB pics we have been seeing. I have not seen any new pics lately on the 829th FB page. When can we see more pics of our soliders hard at work. This gives me confort to know they are doing well.

by [brenda prestwood](#)

- We had heard that there would be new mailing addresses for the soldiers of 121. Does the news that they may be coming home change that? Does the new address mean they are moving from there present location?

by [julianne eckels](#)

As the mission changes in theater, they may be moving to other locations, but the mail will follow.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Are they under any threat by ISIS at all?

by [renae mckenzie](#)

Our soldiers are deployed in theater and there are risks, but they are well trained and prepared for their mission.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Good Evening Sir, With the unsettling news we hear everyday from across the world. Will this affect our Units in Wisconsin with possible deployments?

by [kelli lynch](#)

The National Guard will likely be part of any future missions as determined by the President. Our readiness has never been better and we are relied upon by the Army and Air Force

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- is there serious budget cut in the future? and is it possible some units will be combined in the future?

by [xiaocai](#)

Money is tight - sequestration has constrained DOD budget and affected National Guard. However, we have the funds needed for our training, drills and AT.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- I appreciate all of the FB posts and news articles of 829th EN CO -- it's nice to get a glimpse of them working as well as playing -- especially if you can spot your loved one. I look each day to see if there has been anything new posted. Wonderful world of technology that we live in :) Thank You to all !!

by [donna](#)

- That's good to know about the mail. Thank you both for the replies.

by [jean m lazich](#)

- HELLO ! Jean M Lazich,mother of SGT Brett Lazich

by [jean m lazich](#)

- My son and daughter-in-law are in the same unit, would they be separated IF the soldiers come home in December?

by [renae mckenzie](#)

It is possible - hopefully not.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Hello this is Nanette, mother of Specialist Shumway. What is ACAP?  
by [nanette shumway](#)

- How long will they have to be at Bliss once they hit the US?  
by [pkummrow](#)

10-14 days  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- My son is deployed right now in afganistain with the 829th unit will the budget cut affect any of them shoulders coming home when that time is  
by [brenda prestwood](#)

They will return home based on mission - not budget  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Regarding the budget cuts, some military branches are sending officers home from overseas because of cuts. Does this impact the 829?  
by [shannon becker](#)

No - we have sufficient funds for the overseas mission.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Will the 829th continue to be headquartered in Richland?  
by [aurea](#)

829th will be HQ'd at Spooner  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Sir, has ACAP been an issue for any other returning units?  
by [phil koth](#)

It has caused some frustration.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- why was the Richland Cener National building closed?  
by [marlene crary](#)

Part of our reorganization that occurs periodically. We are maintaining it.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Carolyn I too was expecting some kind of speech with information  
by [aurea](#)

- As you know Sept 27//28th is coming soon and families need to be able to plan their schedules. On what date will congress officially decide if drill is being held on Sept 27/28th? When can we expect to know for sure?  
by [beth](#)

Congress has two more days this week. If they don't act by Thursday, it is unlikely that we will drill.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Thankyou!

by [marlene crary](#)

- Sir, speaking of outprocessing requirements, ACAP has been a BIG issue for the group here in Kuwait. It's a great program for retiring or ETS Soldiers from Active Duty, but shouldn't apply to Guard/Reservists returning to jobs after a deployment. It is also one of our biggest time consumers at DEMOB. Is there a way NGB can work exceptions for Guard members returning to school or jobs?

by [phil koth](#)

Understand the concern. This is required under the VOW act and we need to accomplish it. Important for soldiers and created by Congress because of unemployed soldiers - this was a solution aimed to help and I understand the frustration.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- My son is with the 829 and does their monthly news letter abroad. He emailed me one of his news letters that indicated that mail is being received very well with lots of care packages being addressed to all of troops to share. Thought I'd share with those with the 829!

by [shannon becker](#)

- Gladly: a BMET (4A2X1) is responsible for preventive maintenance and unscheduled repairs of medical equipment at an assigned unit.

by [robert](#)

I need to research and we will post an answer tomorrow or the next day. Thanks.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Good evening, Sir. Can you explain what portion of the 829th might return home in December?

by [janice faust](#)

Just depends on the mission requirements.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- What the battalion is scheduled to leave

by [rory schutte](#)

Our next unit to deploy is the 950th and the date is 15 Oct.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Does there mail get forwarded to them when they move?

by [jean m lazich](#)

Yes

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Sir, if a soldier has been informed that their part of the unit will be returning early and this soldier applied for reassignment, to stay and assist the rest of the unit or even another unit, how likely is that to happen for them?

by [tamora hovde](#)

Reassignments are determined by unit CC and the need of the mission. We will help in any way we can.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)



- We all appreciate you too, Rita!  
by **pkummrow**

- Jo Ann Krulatz here, mother of Heather Krulatz and Ellen Marenda with the 829th.  
by **jo ann krulatz**

Hi JoAnn  
by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- Do we know yet if September's drill is going to be rescheduled for sept 27th and 28th?  
by **beth**

Yes - it is rescheduled depending on Congressional reprogramming of funds. If Congress says yes, we will drill. If not, we would offer an extra drill in FY 15. WE will do everything possible to ensure your soldiers gets full pay.  
by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- Glad to hear there okay and doing Great!  
by **marlene crary**

- As an FRG lead, I put in a request for the DoD to change the term re-deployment as it cause great anxiety when it should cause joy! ;)  
by **rjuarez**

Thank you for that and for volunteering - we appreciate you.  
by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- Could you please inform me on the 1ST BN 121st FA? (Sussex)

by **tammy miller**

they are doing great and performing a great mission in theater. Soldiers' morale is great.  
by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- My soldier is Btry A 1st BN 121st FA....I hardly know what that means :)  
by **pkummrow**



by [webmasterpao](#)

- What are the chances of re-deployment either to Afghanistan or Iraq?

by [sharon tilly](#)

Hard to say. This is the best National Guard in our nation's history. IF the President decides that we need to engage in the middle east with soldiers, it is likely that the National Guard could be part.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- So the entire 829 may not come home at the same time and some may remain?

by [kas](#)

It's possible. As directed, the forces are drawing down and some units are coming home at various times.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Steven is with the 121, deployed

by [julianne eckels](#)

- when i talk to you on the phone you said that it was supposed to be a live speech at 7 will there be a speech or is this just to ask questions?

by [carolyn minto](#)

This is a e-town hall - no speech.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- This is Lori Mendez, son Jordan Mendez. Do we need to have anything prepared for their return?

by [lori mendez](#)

We are preparing through the yellow ribbon team and the FRG. Reintegration and freedom salute. you should attend the phase I reintegration and the prior reunion brief. For details, contact FRG volunteers.

by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- my son is deployed with 829th Richland Center unit , Andrew Wirtz

by [marlene crary](#)

- Are they okay over there?

by **marlene crary**

The commanders tell me that morale is high and that they are doing great.

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- My son has told me that his mail has been opened. Is that done by the Army or the locals? Julie Eckels, son is Steven Eckels

by **julianne eckels**

Julie - is Steven deployed? Which unit?

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- could WI potentially be involved in west Africa?

by **beth**

currently - we have no units or personnel deploying for the medical support mission.

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- Good Evening I am Sgt Joseph Lawrence's wife Mariellen he is with the 32BDOC in KU

by **mariellen**

- I am here Brenda Prestwood my son is Lance Winkers PV3 he is in the 829th unit will they be home by christmas

by **brenda prestwood**

Again - a portion could be home, but it's not firm yet. We will tell you as soon as we know.

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- Janice Faust is here, mother of Holly DuMond.

by **janice faust**

- Is the 829 coming home before Christmas?

by **aurea**

- That is a great question our son is with the 829th En Co

by **sharon tilly**

- Do you happen to know how they are coming along with their mission? Are they on schedule, ahead of schedule, behind?

by **shannon becker**

All of our units are doing superb and are on track. They will redeploy consistent with Presidential direction as we withdraw from theater.

by **Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar**

- What can you tell us about the 829th engineers and their deployment?

by **julie neal**

- If we've been told by our soldier that it is likely, are they in a unit that will be home?  
by [pkummrow](#)

Which unit is your soldier with?  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Maj Gen Dunbar:

Good evening, sir. Thank you for spending time this evening discussing pending issues and concerns with fellow airmen.

My concern relates to the removal of BMETs from most ANG and AFR units after the "transformation." Has any communication been shared from the NGB relating to how maintenance of medical equipment will be conducted going forward in the absence of any qualified individual being assigned to ANG/AFR units? If so, please share.

Thank you.

-Robert  
by [robert](#)

Robert - can you confirm what a BMET is?  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Hello, I am Angie Denotter, my son Lucas Denotter is in BCT at Ft Jackson and will be a Wisconsin National Guard based out of Kenosha when he completes AIT, next April. Being new to National Guard I'm not really sure what to ask. I guess I would like to know how the budget cuts are going to effect him while finishing BCT, AIT and when he comes home next spring. Thank you for your time. Angie  
by [angie denotter](#)

Thanks for joining - we welcome your son. The budget is tight but will have no impact on his initial training and will not impact his National Guard training when he returns.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Hi, Shannon Becker is here, my son is Nick Cota.  
by [shannon becker](#)

- hello this is leslie fox,stephany [minto.mother](#) and sister of steven fox  
by [carolyn minto](#)

- Good evening Sir, this is CPT Phil Koth with the 32nd BDOC mission in Kuwait.  
by [phil koth](#)

- Cathy Nyberg is here  
by [cathy nyberg](#)

- How long will the soldiers be in Ft. Hood before coming home to Wisconsin?  
by [charlotte doro](#)

10 - 14 days is the planned demob time.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Good evening this is Molly Vierkant, SPC Laura Van Remortel, Mother  
by [molly vierkant](#)

- My daughters are in the 829, so does that mean that 1 may come home and the other stay?  
by [bayta](#)

it's possible and I know that would be unfortunate. We can't control who or how many.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- For all units, if any soldiers or airmen come home before Christmas, we will do our best to get them home before the 25th. But it depends on the out processing requirements.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Thank you  
by [pkummrow](#)

- That is encouraging!  
by [sharon tilly](#)

We have heard from HQ that a portion of the 829th may be home in December, but that is not final. We will keep you posted as we get firmer details.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Are our soldiers coming home before Christmas?  
by [pkummrow](#)

It depends on the unit.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Hello, Pat and Sharon Tilly are here, our son is Shawn Tilly  
by [sharon tilly](#)

- I am here....  
by [charlotte dor](#)

- Who has the first question?  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Ready to start  
by [rory schutte](#)

- Welcome everyone.  
by [Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar](#)

- Good eve this is Deb Maxon, Matthew Dodge Mother  
by [deb maxon](#)

- Hello-Is anyone there?  
by [tammy miller](#)

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the Wisconsin National Guard electronic Town Hall. I am glad you are able to join us.

My goal tonight is to hear from you about issues important to you concerning our deployed Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, and to provide you with information to address those issues. To best facilitate this, I'd like our forum tonight to focus on deployment reintegration, budget cuts and future funding, operations tempo and family concerns arising from deployment. But we will also take questions on other issues of concern or note.

I appreciate the time you have taken to be part of tonight's Town Hall.  
Thank you for what you do to support the Wisconsin National Guard.

by Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar

*Editor's Note: The statement below was added after the online town hall by National Guard staff in an effort to further clarify questions about the return of currently deployed units.*

"To ensure the most accurate information is shared about our units to those who asked questions at last night's Town Hall, please consider the following:

829th Engineer Company – The Wisconsin Army National Guard has an official notification from National Guard Bureau that the unit is likely to return to the U.S. earlier than originally planned. At this time, specific return dates are not available, but we anticipate late 2014 or early 2015. However, there are dynamics beyond our control which could get in the way of the entire company, or a portion of it, arriving when we would like. Those dynamics include: new missions that would keep all or a portion of the company from returning in December; transportation limitations which would preclude all or a portion of the Company from leaving their deployed location when we would like; and demobilization station backlogs at Fort Bliss, Texas (too many soldiers demobilizing at the same time). Please keep in mind that December will be a very busy time in theater given it is the last month the coalition has to draw forces down from 33,000 to 9,800 by the end of December 2014.

A Battery, 1-121 Field Artillery Battalion – The Wisconsin Army National Guard has not received official or unofficial notification that a portion of the unit is likely to return to the U.S. in December 2014, but there is speculation a portion of the unit could return earlier than originally planned. However, the same dynamics as outlined above apply to these soldiers as well. Once we receive official notification that changes the unit's deployment timeline, we will provide it to the unit chain of command.

As always, the best thing you can do is maintain contact with your unit's Family Readiness Group, which is given the most current and official information about your soldier and his or her unit. As these units make the transition from federal status back to state status, our staff will remain in contact with the National Guard Bureau, Fort Bliss, Texas, and the unit commander to establish a more concrete timeline given the fluid situation of a unit deployment.

Thank you"

The following statement is provided in response to the question received on Bio-Medical Equipment Technicians (BMET):

"NGB has been looking at two courses of action in discussions with the Air Force Logistics Office-Medical Equipment Branch. If the Medical Transformation receives final approval and the BMET position is removed from the Unit Manpower Document then the active duty Medical Equipment Repair Center (MERC) closest to the ANG unit will provide the maintenance support. Scott AFB, IL and Wright-Patterson AFB, OH are the closest MERCs to support Wisconsin units. If the Medical Transformation receives final approval but the BMET position remains on the Unit Manpower Document then NGB will ensure training and repair kits are available to ANG BMETs. A final decision has not yet been made."